



Queen Elizabeth School

Reading with Me

Tips for helping your child learn to read.



Stage 1

As soon as they're born, your baby recognises your voice and enjoys listening to you. Cuddling up and sharing a story together will encourage your child to enjoy books and have better reading and language skills when they get older.



- Sit comfortably and let your child see your face and the story you're reading or the picture or object you are talking about.
- Turn off the TV and radio as too much background noise is distracting for both of you.
- Select an appropriate book to share - it should have clear, simple pictures, few or no words and be made out of board, cloth or plastic so your child can grasp it easily.
- Tell a story that you know well, or use a picture to make up a story. Talk about what you and your child have been doing or are going to do.
- Sing and say simple rhymes and songs and try to do the actions. Most libraries run rhymetime sessions where you can meet other parents and learn some new rhymes as well as enjoying your favourites.
- Repeat the stories and rhymes that your child enjoys over and over. You may get bored, but your child won't and you'll be helping to develop connections in their brain.

Children get tired easily so don't worry if they lose interest quickly. Try reading together for a short time but as often as possible.

Stage 2

Reading is a great way to introduce your child to new words and by naming pictures in a book, you will help them to learn the words for objects in real life. Sharing a story together will also encourage your child to enjoy books and have better reading and language skills.

- Enjoy reading with your child everywhere. Sharing a story just before bed is a great routine to get into but you can also share books throughout the day. Try reading in the kitchen, at the park, in the car, while waiting for a bus or in the bath (just make sure the books are waterproof!).
- Point to the pictures that relate to words in the story and ask simple questions like, “can you see the.....?”. Give your child time to respond.
- Look at books with flaps to lift and sound buttons to push.
- Look at a mixture of books like non-fiction and books with photographs of real things as well as illustrated story books. You don’t have to buy lots of books, just visit your local library. It’s free and easy to join and children can have their own library card.
- Try making your own book with photos of family and friends.



Stage 3

At this stage, children are beginning to connect the idea of stories with books. Reading together will introduce your child to new words and increase their vocabulary. It's also a lovely way to relax and spend time together.

- Use books in a variety of situations like in the car, in the bath, joined to your buggy, in the garden or in the kitchen. Try using a cookery book when you're making cakes with your child.
- Read stories with lots of repetition as your child will like to join in. Leave a gap if there is a phrase they know well so they can say it.
- Read some books that are not stories so you can talk about facts, especially if your child is interested in something like animals or cars.

If you're telling your child a story about something that really happened, like when you went to the seaside, see what they can remember and ask them to help you to tell it in the right order.



Stage 4

Your child is beginning to understand how stories work and that the words on the page mean something. Reading together will help them start to make sense of those words and recognise some letters.



- Use books in a variety of situations and match them to what your child is doing. You could have a book about transport with your child's box of cars.
- Point to words as you read them.
- Make up voices for the different characters in a story.
- When you finish a story, ask your child to tell you what happened. You could draw pictures together or dress up and act it out.
- Make books about things your child is interested in by cutting pictures out of magazines together.
- Make up stories about your child, or about when you were little, or about your child's favourite toy.
- Read poetry and stories that rhyme and pause so your child can say the rhyming words.

Let your child see you reading.

Stage 5

By stage 5, your child is starting to read for themselves but they still need your support. By encouraging your child to read to you, being an enthusiastic listener and talking about new words and their meanings, you'll help them to develop their reading skills.

- Use books in a variety of situations and match them to what your child is doing. You could take a book about insects to read when you're at the park.
- Make up voices for the different characters in a story. •
- Point to words and grammar as you read. By pointing out the speech marks, your child will understand why you use a different voice when they appear. Just don't do it all the time and spoil the flow of the story.
- Speak to your child's teacher about how they sound out words and use phonics to encourage children to read simple words. And then follow their advice when you're reading with your child.
- Visit your local library and help your child to find out information about something they're interested in such as animals. It's free and easy to join and children can have their own library card.

Point out words and phrases on shops and signs when you are out and about. Children can recognise familiar words really quickly.



Stage 6

Now that your child is reading independently you will need to support them in different ways to encourage them to continue to make progress and to foster a love of reading.



Paired reading - This is a good way to help children read and involves you and your child saying words out loud together. Match your speed to your child's. When your child does not know a word or tries but gets it wrong you can say the word for them and encourage them to say it correctly. Your child needs to look at the words. Also encourage your child to point to each word as you read it together.

A paired reading diary - Keep a note each day in a reading diary of what's been read and how your child is getting on. Your child can show this to the teacher for extra praise, which can help make your child keen.

Talk and listen - Show interest in the book they have chosen. Go through the book before reading it and talk about the pictures. Talk about what's in the book at the end of each page or section. Ask your child what they think might happen next. Listen to the answers your child gives and what they have to say.

Going solo - When your child wants to read out loud alone, agree on a signal they can give you to keep quiet – one that won't interrupt their concentration, for example, a knock, sign or squeeze. When your child gives you that sign, go quiet straight away but if they try for more than five seconds or get things wrong, read the right word aloud for them. Make sure your child says the right word when reading it with you and carry on reading together until your child is confident to try alone again.

Reading alone - Another option is for your child to read alone out loud. If they are unsure of the word you say it and then they carry on reading.